

BACS Writing Portfolio Awards 2019

Each year, BACS recognizes excellence in writing by awarding prizes to the best work in 1st and 2nd year Academic Writing classes. Students in both years are required to keep a portfolio of writing. These writings tasks - themed paragraph writing, book reports, research and opinion essays, and other kinds of writing - are produced in all Language Program courses (Oral Communication, Reading, Presentation and ITL Computer classes) and submitted to the Academic Writing teachers as part of the course assessment. Work is also added from the Academic Writing class. At the end of the year, 1st and 2nd year writing teachers meet to decide the the Best Essay, the Best Portfolio and the Most Improved Writer.

BACS is proud to announce the winners of this year's Writing Portfolio Awards. We would like to extend a warm thank-you to all teachers who worked with students on their writing this year.

1st Year Writing Awards

Best Portfolio:

Hiyori Yagi

Most Improved Writer:

Miyu Achiha

Best Essay:

Sayaka Sodeyama for

"The Problem of Obesity in the UK and Some Possible
Solutions"

2nd Year Writing Awards

Best Portfolio:

Anuththara Weerasinghe

Most Improved Writer:

Natsuki Imai

Best Essay:

Kanade Ogita for

"Using AI to Replace Humans Can Lead to Issues"

Best Essay by a First-Year Student
(written for the AW Common Exam)

The Problem of Obesity in the UK and Some Possible Solutions

SAYAKA SODEYAMA

In the past, Black Death was a serious issue in England, and it is said that sixty percent of the population of Europe died due to Black Death. However, there is another problem related to health in the UK today. Obesity is an important problem because it is linked to the recent increase in medical expenses, but there are several ways for the government and individuals to deal with it.

Obesity is an issue of immediate concern to people everywhere because their daily actions affect their bodies. According to the website *Takeda-Kenko*, if one takes in too much fat or sugar, or has an irregular diet, such as skipping breakfast or eating out, their energy intake would exceed their energy consumption and accumulation. Actually, two-thirds of adults and one-quarter of children in the UK were obese in 2018.

There are some possible solutions planned by the government to deal with obesity, such as the "Sugar Tax." The government decided to put a twenty percent tax on soft drinks containing sugar. *GoV.UK* says, since it was announced in March 2016, over fifty percent of manufacturers reduced the sugar content of

their products. After that, the "Sugar Tax" was introduced in April 2018. *Tokyo-Kezai online* reported that the levy on sugar reached 153.8 million pounds by the end of October.

In addition, there are also easy ways for individuals to prevent obesity. Getting aerobic exercise, such as walking or swimming, leads to fat burning, and stretching everyday results in better blood circulation. If one wants to lose weight, getting into the habit of doing these things increases basal metabolism.

In short, there is a serious obesity issue in the UK, but people can avoid becoming obese through these possible solutions: a "Sugar Tax" by the government, or individuals getting the habit of exercising. If people live healthy lives, it would also improve the economies of their countries.

Best Essay by a Second-Year Student

Using AI to Replace Humans Can Lead to Issues

KANADE OGITA

In the future, Japan has the possibility of facing many problems caused by developing Artificial Intelligence, earthquakes and aging society. Artificial Intelligence, AI, is used in almost any place, for example, the entrance of a mobile phone shop as one of the clerks and is used in the iPhone such as Siri and Alexa. However, while using AI to make life better, developing AI has some social problems such as problems of responsibility, upsetting the balance of employment, and the possibility of negative applications.

First, developing AI has some problems of responsibility. In the future, it is said that automatic cars will spread, especially in Japan, because of the aging society, so automatic cars will likely spread in Japan more than in other countries. However, according to "Responsibility for Crashes of Autonomous Vehicles: an Ethical Analysis," if society accepts the automatic car and then it causes an accident, who has responsibility? It is a very difficult problem. Moreover, according to "Artificial Intelligence, Responsibility Attribution and a Relational Justification of Explain ability," in Arizona, an Uber car caused an accident and a pedestrian was killed. There are many people involved in this accident, for example, the company that created the Uber car,

the company that introduced the Uber car, the car user and the pedestrian, so accidents that involve many people are difficult to solve because it is difficult to accuse or to lay responsibility on AI. Lastly, AI can express its opinion, according to "Microsoft's Disastrous Tay Experiment Shows the Hidden Dangers of AI," AI started to affirm discrimination and speak contrary to the intention of the developer. It is difficult to prevent and take responsibility because AI can sometimes speak of its own will.

Second, developing AI can upset the balance of employment. Now there are many kinds of jobs where human workers are being replaced by computers. For example, companies have introduced machines as clerks and also companies have introduced machines to handle simple work. According to "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence - Widespread Job Losses," by 2030, intelligent agents and robots could replace as much as 30 percent of humans in those jobs, so in the future, as technology improves, people will lose jobs even more than now. Furthermore, introducing AI will produce economic differences. According to "Top 9 Ethical Issues in Artificial Intelligence", introducing AI in the workplace, the company will get more money because the company doesn't need to pay a worker's salary or worry about working-time. That is why introducing AI to the workplace will produce an economic difference between the company that can introduce AI and the company that can't introduce AI, and also introducing AI leads to unemployment and decreasing salaries.

Third, developing AI also has the possibility of negative applications. According to "Fraudsters Used AI to Mimic CEOs Voice

in Unusual Cybercrime Case," a man used an AI voice and tried to commit fraud. In the UK, someone claiming to be the CEO of the company called a managing director on the phone, and the managing director was requested to transfer money to an account. However, the voice of the CEO was actually an imitation created by AI. The managing director didn't notice that at first. This crime luckily was solved because he called the real CEO to verify the transfer, but as technology advances, this kind of thing can happen in almost any place, and it will be more and more difficult to notice that it is fraud. Further, AI has been introduced to be used in war. According to the article "Killer Robots Aren't Regulated. Yet," there are many weapons that use AI. It is very dangerous because AI has enough ability to hurt humans but lacks a conscience. To introduce AI in war, the style of war will change drastically.

In conclusion, developing AI has several problems, such as the way of taking responsibility, threatening to human jobs, and chances for being misused. In the future, AI will be used more than now in many places because AI has many good functions, for example, AI can cut the cost of human resource and time. However, do humans rely on AI too much? Using AI too much can be a threat to human life, so it is important to think of the best way to live with AI.

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